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Bloomfield District Cemetery

Short History, Rules, Regulations and By-Laws

: : : OF THE : : :

Bloomfield District Cemetery

Situated in South Bloomfield Township,
Morrow County, Ohio

Incorporated A. D. 1890

Columbus, Ohio
PRESS OF FRED J. HEER
1906

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

In 1892 these Cemetery Grounds were resurveyed and replatted by

JOHN T. BUCK

Surveyor and Civil Engineer

PRESENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP

JOHN ALLISON,
President.

J. B. CULVER,

S. M. CRAMER,

SOUTH BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

WARREN SWETLAND,
Treasurer.

ALONZO RAMEY,

SMITH SEARS,
Secretary.

A. M. SCARBROUGH,
Superintendent.

The Superintendent's Home.

LIST OF TRUSTEES AND THEIR TERM OF OFFICE

Obadiah Allison	1859-1868.
Smith Lyon	1859-1872.
Roswell Clark	1859-1863.
Epanetus Hows	1859-1863.
E. S. Sears	1859-1865.
Samuel Keys	1863-1877.
Mason Bliss	1863-1868.
Floyd Sears	1863-1892.
John Blin	1865-1887.
Rowland Roggers	1865-1884.
B. L. Swetland	1865-1872.
Jonathan Bennett	1868-1892.
Daniel Chase	1872-1889.
John McGuire	1877-1891.
John Allison	1877-1905.
Warren Swetland	1877-1905.
A. H. Brown	1878-1882.
W. A. Ashley	1884-1887.
John Orsburn	1885-1890.
H. E. Ashley	1887-1894.
Ira Manville	1890-1892.
Alonzo Ramey	1892-1905.
Smith Sears	1892-1905.
J. B. Culver	1893-1895. 1899-1905.
I. C. White	1895-1899.
S. M. Cramer	1897-1905.

View Taken From Section 15. Platted A. D., 1820.

HISTORY

In the year A. D. 1820, Mr. John Helt and Elder Samuel Marvin (whose lands joined) each surveyed and platted one-half acre of ground for burial purposes, and gave to these grounds the name Bloomfield Cemetery.

The first interment in these grounds was August 19, 1821, the person buried was Preston Hubbell, father of Harvey, George and Preston Hubbell. The third day after the burial his widow and sister visited his grave and to their surprise they discovered the wolves had scented the body and dug down to the lid of the coffin.

In 1850, E. S. Sears, who then owned the lands formerly owned by Helt, surveyed and platted one-half acre of ground joining on the south of that platted by Helt, and in 1855 platted one-fourth acre south of the grounds platted in 1850.

These lots as platted contained 264 square feet and sold for 50 cents per lot; which was only enough to pay for the land and if any improvements were made to protect and beautify the grounds, it had to be done by donation. These grounds were not under the care of any one in particular. As time moved on it became necessary to make repairs and improvements.

E. S. Sears had taken it upon himself to look after the grounds, see that the fence was kept up and the elders and briars were cut as often as once a year. He thought that grounds set apart for the burial of the dead thus kept was not becoming to a civilized community, and in March, 1859, he called several of the lot owners together to consult and advise as to the best course to pursue for the better care of these grounds. After due deliberation it was decided to elect a board of Cemetery Trustees, their term of office was indefinite. The following named persons

View Taken From Section 14. Platted A. D., 1850.

were elected as trustees: Obadiah Allison, Smith Lyon, Roswell Clark, Epanetus Hows, and E. S. Sears.

Obadiah Allison was elected President and E. S. Sears Secretary and Treasurer. In April, 1863, there was a change made in the board. Samuel Keys was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Roswell Clark resigning, and Mason Bliss to fill the vacancy made by Epanetus Hows resigning, and Floyd Sears added to the board. Obadiah Allison continued as president, E. S. Sears, secretary, Floyd Sears, treasurer. At their annual meeting in April, 1864, the trustees took under consideration the enlarging of the cemetery grounds and appointed a committee to see E. S. Sears and Barnabas Pierce, and see if land adjoining the cemetery grounds could be purchased, and report at their next meeting set for July 2, 1864.

At this meeting the committee reported favorably and the trustees did purchase of Barnabas Pierce and Nancy Pierce, his wife, one and three-fourths acres of land adjoining on the east, the grounds platted by Marvin and four acres of E. S. Sears and Laura Sears, adjoining on the east the grounds platted by Helt and E. S. Sears.

The lots in this addition were sold at a price exceeding the purchase price of the land and all moneys received for sale of lots over and above paying for the land was to be expended in improving and beautifying the cemetery grounds. Many lots were sold, but the income was not sufficient to make the necessary improvements. The trustees conceived the idea of forming a cemetery district, get it incorporated and levy a tax on the taxpayers of this district for cemetery purposes. This district was to be composed of the west four-fifths of S. Bloomfield township, and the east half of Bennington township.

In 1890 by an act passed by the Ohio Legislature the above described territory was incorporated as the Bloomfield District Cemetery. The full text of this act is given in the Revised Statutes of Ohio of 1890, and is House Bill No. 432.

Rear View Taken From Section 14. Platted 1850.

In 1891 the cemetery grounds were enlarged by purchasing two acres of A. B. Sears on the south and east of the grounds platted and two acres of Jefferson Pierce on the north. The entire amount of land platted for burial purposes is twelve acres.

These grounds had reached proportions that required the attention of a superintendent. As there was no place for a superintendent to live, the Trustees took steps to provide a place, and in 1894 they purchased one acre of ground, west of the public highway, directly opposite the cemetery grounds. In 1896 and 1897 they erected suitable buildings for a home for the superintendent.

September, 1897, C. W. Modie was chosen by the Board of Trustees as their first superintendent and filled that position until he resigned, February, 1905. A. M. Scarbrough was elected C. W. Meode's successor. Any person desiring information from the superintendent can call on him in person, by phone through Sparta Exchange, or by addressing him at Centerburg, Ohio, R. F. D. No. 1.

In April, 1902 a number of the ladies residing within the bounds of the cemetery district met and organized a society, having for its object the improvement of the cemetery grounds. This organization is called the Bloomfield Cemetery Improvement Association. The officers consist of a president, first and second vice president, secretary and treasurer. Each person becoming a member of this society pays 25 cents and 25 cents each year thereafter. All money raised from fees or any other source by this society is to be expended in making such improvements in the cemetery grounds as the society may direct, providing it does not conflict with the rules and regulations as laid down by the Cemetery Trustees. At present this society has about one hundred and twenty-five members.

We feel as though it would not be doing justice to all concerned if we did not in this brief history mention the name of James Ewert of Maysville, Missouri, although he has never

First View Taken From Sections 1 and 2. Platted 1864.

held any official position, yet he has manifested a great interest in the improvement of our Cemetery. The Board of Trustees has always found him splendid counsel. His suggestions as to certain improvements were always timely and he was always ready to help with his own money to make this improvement if there was not sufficient means in the hands of the treasurer.

If it had not been for Mr. Ewert's liberal donations from time to time we could not have made the improvements in our cemetery that we have made.

The Board of Trustees hereby express our thanks to Mr. Ewert for the interest he has shown in the improvement of our cemetery, by his suggestions and by his liberal gifts.

With Mr. Ewert's gifts, moneys received from sale of lots, from taxes, from Ladies' Improvement Association, and the Trustees giving their time, we have been enabled to make such improvements in our cemetery as have brought the grounds to a state of admiration. We do not think it would be boasting to say we have the finest country cemetery in the State of Ohio, or in the United States. We have given you this brief history thinking it might prompt others to take an interest in the improvement of their cemeteries in the country.

Second View Taken From Sections 1 and 2. Platted 1864.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

BLOOMFIELD DISTRICT CEMETERY

As Formulated and Adopted by the Board of Trustees

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1. All vehicles, persons on horseback and bicycles will be allowed to pass through the grounds only on the carriage ways, and at a rate not exceeding three miles an hour.

2. Drivers of carriages at funerals are required to remain in their seats or stand by their vehicles during the performance of burial ceremonies.

3. No horse shall be left unfastened by the driver nor shall it be fastened where it may do injury.

4. No hunting will be allowed on the cemetery grounds with either dogs or gun.

5. Firearms shall not be discharged on the grounds except at military funerals.

6. All persons are prohibited from picking *wild or cultivated flowers* or breaking any tree, shrub or plant.

7. All persons are prohibited from writing upon, defacing or injuring any monument, fence, or any other structure in or belonging to the cemetery.

8. The Superintendent shall prohibit the entrance of all improper persons.

9. The Superintendent shall reside at the cemetery, and under the directions of the Trustees, shall have general custody thereof, shall keep the avenues, paths and grounds in neat and satisfactory order, and shall have power to engage such workmen as can be approved by the President of the Board of Trustees; and shall have the sole power to order and assign and arrange their respective duties under the direction of the Trustees.

LOTS.

1. The Superintendent is ready at all times in business hours to accompany persons desirous of purchasing a burial lot and to give all needed information as to size, location and price.

View Taken From Sections 2 and 3. Platted 1864.

2. Upon decease of any proprietor of a lot, the heirs-at-law or devisees of such lot, as the case may be, shall be entitled to the same privileges as the proprietor; if there be more than one person entitled to the possession, they shall designate to the Secretary which of their number is to represent the lot; on their failure to designate, the Trustees shall designate and record which of said parties shall represent the lot.

DEEDS.

After purchasing a lot and paying for it the Secretary will issue the following deed of ownership which will be executed and recorded in a Book of Deeds kept in the office of the Secretary; the Secretary is to receive fifty cents for each and every deed executed and recorded, such fee to be paid out of the purchase money.

COPY OF DEED.

Know all men by these presents. That the undersigned Trustees of the Bloomfield and Bennington District Cemetery in Morrow County, Ohio, in the consideration of the sum of ..... Dollars to them paid by ..... of said county, the receipt is hereby acknowledged, do hereby *grant, bargain, sell and convey* to the said .... heirs the following lot of ground to-wit: Lot number ....., Section ....., Range ....., containing ..... square feet as designated and described on the plat of the Bloomfield Cemetery on file in the office of the Secretary of the Cemetery, to have and to hold the same to the use of the said ..... and ..... heirs, for the purpose of burial only, subject to the cemetery laws of this state, and to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Trustees of said cemetery.

In Testimony Whereof .... and ..... as the Trustees of said Cemetery have hereunto set their hands this ..... day of ..... A. D., nineteen hundred and .....

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.....
.....

Trustees.

View Taken From Sections 5 and 6. Platted 1864.

Signed and acknowledged.

.....

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Witnesses.

STATE OF OHIO, ... COUNTY, SS.:

Be it remembered that on this ..... day of ....., A. D., 190...., before me the undersigned a ..... in and for said county, personally appeared ..... and ..... who as Trustees of Bloomfield Cemetery in said county acknowledged the signing of the foregoing deed to be their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year last above mentioned.

.....

.....

[SEAL.]

HOW TRANSFERRED.

Owners of lots cannot resell or transfer their lots to any other person without the consent of the Board of Trustees is first had, and obtained in writing.

RULES CONCERNING INTERMENTS.

1. No interment of any body other than that of a human being will be permitted in the Cemetery.

2. In each case of interment, a statement, giving the place of nativity, residence, age, disease, and the name of the parents or kindred of the person to be buried should be furnished to the Superintendent that an accurate register may be made, and all persons applying for interment in this Cemetery, whether as principal or undertaker, should furnish such particulars for purpose of record.

3. No interment or disinterment will be allowed on any lot, or grave, without an order from the proprietor, or legal representative thereof.

4. No grave nor tomb shall be opened for interment or removal by persons not in the employ of the cemetery.

5. Graves shall be dug only by persons in the employ of the cemetery and under the direction of the Superintendent.

6. At least one day's previous notice should be given the Superintendent of the time of burial.

Swetland Family Monument.

7. When designating the location of graves it is very important that the proprietor or representative of the lot should give personal attention to the same to enable a correct record of position of burials to be made.

8. There are many old lots with no stones to mark graves Any information relating to these old lots will be greatly appreciated and will facilitate the completion of the plat books.

9. All interments will be subject to the following charges, but if any extraordinary service is performed, such additional compensation may be required as shall be determined by the Superintendent for the time being.

BURIAL CHARGES.

Grave four feet long and upwards.....$4 00
Grave under four feet.....$1 00 to 3 00
Grave for vault..... 5 00

For lining and decorating graves the Superintendent makes the price.

Parties can put in their vaults themselves or employ the Superintendent.

FUNERALS.

1. All funerals are in charge of the Superintendent as soon as they enter the gates.

2. All burials in private lots must be restricted to lot owners, or members of their families unless by special permission of the Board of Trustees.

MONUMENTS AND HEAD STONES.

1. The foundation for all monuments and head stones shall be of solid masonry, constructed of good stone well laid and thoroughly grouted with good cement; in no case to extend less than three feet below the surface of the ground, and when for the support of a large, heavy monument, of such depth as the Superintendent shall deem neces sary to make a good and permanent foundation.

2. The work shall be done by the employees of the cemetery or under the supervision of the Superintendent and he is to receive 20 cents per hour for such work. If the Superintendent puts in the foundation he is to have 25 cents a cubic foot for monuments and $1.50 and upwards for each head stone.

3. The Superintendent must not allow any head stones (unless

View Taken From Section 11. Platted 1892.

they go three feet in the ground) or monuments to be placed on lots without foundations.

4. Every foundation must be as long and as wide as the base stone resting upon it and must not project above the surface of the ground.

5. Base stones for monuments, headstones, etc., will not be allowed that have an uneven surface at the bottom.

6. Monument dealers are requested to give the Superintendent not less than ten days' notice when a foundation is desired and with such notice to give size of base stone resting on foundation.

7. Parties erecting monuments shall be under the direction of the Superintendent at all times and he is to receive compensation from the parties erecting the work.

8. Heavy teaming will not be allowed in the cemetery grounds when the ground is soft.

9. No headstones will be allowed to be placed in sockets as experience has shown that the cement decays, and the action of the water freezing between the stone and the base always bursts the base.

RULES TO REMEMBER.

Unsightly objects such as withered flowers, rusty tins, woodwork of any kind, will not be permitted to remain on lots or graves.

Any person disturbing the quiet and good order of the place, by noise or improper conduct, or who shall violate any of the rules of the cemetery, shall be compelled to leave the grounds.

No person but those in the employ of the cemetery will be allowed to trim or remove trees or shrubs.

No trees or shrubs can be planted in lots without the Superintendent's permission.

No hedge or enclosure of any kind will be allowed around any lots.

No iron or wire work, and no seats or vases will be allowed only by special permission, and when any article made of iron begins to rust, the same shall be removed from the grounds.

Mounds over graves shall be kept low, not exceeding four inches in heighth and stones or other enclosures around graves will not be permitted.

The Trustees do hereby bind themselves to always keep the lots occupied, neatly mowed with the lawn mower.

HECKMAN
BINDERY, INC.
Bound-To-Please®
OCT 01
N. MANCHESTER, INDIANA 46962